

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with applicants' attorney, Mr. Grad, on 01/13/2010.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

Claims 45-60, 75-87 have been canceled as related to non-elected inventions.

CLAIM 61 (Patent claim 1):

- Line 6: after "heat shrinkable sleeve", insert -- **having a longitudinal length extending from a proximal-most end to a distal-most end of said heat shrinkable sleeve, and --.**
- Line 7: replace "the heat shrinkable sleeve extends distally beyond the proximal shaft" by: -- **said longitudinal length consists of a small portion of the distal end of the proximal shaft and a small portion of the proximal end of the distal shaft -- .**

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3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art reference has failed to disclose or suggest a catheter comprising a distal shaft having a length, a substantially constant outer diameter along a majority of its length, a lumen and a proximal end; a proximal shaft having a length, a substantially constant outer diameter along a majority of its length, a wall defining an inner lumen and a distal end, the distal end of the proximal shaft being connected to the proximal end of the distal shaft and the lumens of the respective shafts being in fluid communication with one another; a heat shrinkable sleeve overlapping the proximal end of the distal shaft and the distal end of the proximal shaft providing a water seal; and a port, wherein the port is positioned between the first and second ends of the heat shrinkable sleeve and formed at least partially transversely through the wall of the proximal shaft; and especially the heat shrinkable sleeve having a longitudinal length extending from a proximal-most end to a distal-most end of said heat shrinkable sleeve, wherein said longitudinal length consists of a small portion of the distal end of the proximal shaft and a small portion of the proximal end of the distal shaft.

Claims 61, 63-67, 69-73 and 88 are allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vy Q. Bui whose telephone number is 571-272-4692. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Tuesday and Thursday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jackie Ho can be reached on 571-272-4696. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Vy Q. Bui/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3773